

**Nasonville Fire District
2577 Victory Highway
Nasonville, Rhode Island 02830**

**October 15, 2016
Annual Meeting Minutes of the Nasonville Fire District**

Saturday October 15, 2016 at 1:00 PM

Meeting location: Nasonville Fire Station, 2577 Victory Highway, Nasonville, Rhode Island.

- 1. Call to Order.**
 - a. The District Moderator Attorney Mike Crane called the Annual Meeting to order at 1:02 PM.
- 2. Reading of the Warrant.**
 - a. Mr. Crane read the meeting Public Notice and Warrant as it was stated in the Bargain Buyer on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance.**
 - a. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those attending the meeting.
- 4. Approve the minutes from the previous annual meeting October 31, 2015.**
 - a. Gerry Lapierre requested that the Moderator allow additional time for review of the minutes from the previous year and the request was granted. After sufficient time had passed, a motion was made to approve the minutes by Gerry Lapierre and seconded by Bettie Hatzell. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
- 5. Receive the Tax Assessor's Report.**
 - a. John Mainville presented the Tax Assessor's Report. Mr. Mainville informed the taxpayers that the rate for the previous fiscal year had dropped \$0.04 over the prior fiscal year due to the large increase in tangible property values for National Grid. He did indicate that National Grid was appealing the valuation of the property. Gerry Lapierre asked what the assessed value being used to set the tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year would be and John indicated that the report he was presenting was for the fiscal year that had just ended. Stephen Foy made a comment that assessments had probably gone down. Anne Chretien questioned why assessed values had not been calculated yet when the Town (Burrillville) had already released the tax rolls to each of the districts. John indicated that this is the way that it has always been done in the district and that he was aware that other districts may handle things differently. He also stated that the Tax Assessors had not passed the information forward. There were no other questions or comments.
 - b. Joe Raymond made a motion to accept the Tax Assessor's Report. Stephen Foy seconded this motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
- 6. Receive the Tax Collector's Report.**
 - a. John Mainville read the Tax Collector's Report.
 - b. Bettie Hatzell made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report. Norm Dalpe seconded this motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
- 7. Receive the Treasurer's Report.**
 - a. Ron Lapierre presented the Treasurer's Report.

- b. Stephen Foy asked about a \$1,000 line item on the income side of the report and Ron Lapierre explained that it was income earned from the sale of the Chevy Blazer. Mr. Foy also asked why the Tax Collector line item was over budget and Ron explained that the stipend was not a set rate of pay but paid at a rate of 5.5% of total taxes collected. Mr. Foy also had a question about the Fire Watch Detail line item and Ron stated that it would be discussed during the presentation of the budget for FY 2017.
- c. Gerry Lapierre made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Stephen Foy seconded this motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.

8. Receive the Chief's Report.

- a. Chief Joseph Bourquin presented the Annual Chief's Report. The Chief discussed the Activity for the year, Aid Given and recognized the members of the department present at the meeting and thanked them for their service.
- b. Stephen Foy asked a question regarding EMS coverage. Beverly St. Onge asked a question regarding training required by the State and if any equipment needed to be purchased to ensure all members were safe while performing their duties, especially lifting. Sue Gartland asked if all members listed in Chief's were active and on duty. And the Chief responded that all listed are active except three that are out due to injury. More information was requested about those out on leave due to injury but Atty. Crane advised the Chief not to respond. There were no further questions.
- c. A motion was made by Beverly St. Onge to accept the Chief's report. The motion was seconded by Norm Dalpe. The motion was carried by all public voters present.

9. Receive the Annual Fire District Board Chairperson's Report.

- a. Jen Zuba gave the Chairperson's annual report.
- b. Jen briefly discussed the turnover in the Chief's position during the past fiscal year, the increase in activity and training in the department since the new Chief had been appointed and mentioned the budget workshops that had been held over the past few months in order to present a reasonable budget to the taxpayers.
- c. Bettie Hatzell made a motion to accept the Chair's report. Gerry Lapierre seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.

10. Election of Officers

- a. Positions up for election:
 - i. Three-year terms: Operating Committee: Three positions. Nominees: Norm Dalpe, Bettie Hatzell, Gerry Lapierre, Troy Phillips. Each nominee was given the opportunity to address the taxpayers. Norm Dalpe opted out of making a comment. Residents voted to use paper ballots rather than a show of hands. Results: Gerry Lapierre, Norm Dalpe and Troy Phillips were elected for 3 year terms.
 - ii. One-year terms: Tax Collector: Ron Lapierre (only nominee). Motion was made by Gerry Lapierre to appoint Ron Lapierre as Tax Collector. Norm Dalpe seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. Treasurer: no nominees. Position is vacant until a candidate comes forward. Clerk: Christine Chretien (only nominee). Motion was made by Gerry Lapierre to appoint Christine Chretien as clerk. Troy Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. Moderator: no nominees. Position is vacant until a candidate comes forward. Tax Assessor: Three positions. Nominees: A motion was made by Troy Phillips to appoint Anne Chretien as Tax Assessor. Stephen Foy seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. A motion was made by Barbara Pacheco to appoint Sue Gartland as Tax Assessor. Gerry Lapierre seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. A motion was made

by Barbara Pacheco to appoint Jeanne Davis as Tax Assessor. Gerry Lapierre seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. Wardens: Three positions. A motion was made by Troy Phillips to appoint Jake Haggerty as a Warden. Gerry Lapierre seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. A motion was made by Bettie Hatzell to appoint Joe Carbone as a Warden. Sue Gartland seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. A motion was made by Bettie Hatzell to appoint Tyler Segee as a Warden. Norm Dalpe seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. Reviewer: Three positions. A motion was made by Sue Gartland to appoint Beverly St. Onge as a Reviewer. Norm Dalpe seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. A motion was made by Sue Gartland to appoint Bettie Hatzell as a Reviewer. Norm Dalpe seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. One Review position was not filled. Nominating Committee: Four Positions: A motion was made by Beverly St. Onge to appoint Kirstin Hatzell to the Nominating Committee. Gerry Lapierre seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present. A motion was made by Jen Zuba to appoint Bettie Hatzell to the Nominating Committee. Beverly St. Onge seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.

11. Old Business.

- a. Part-Time Clerk Position. Jen Zuba discussed the duties of the part-time clerk and Ron Lapierre discussed the financial impact. Jen stated that the job description needed to be written but the intent is to hire someone for 10 hours per week to work at the station to collect tax payments from district residents, to be a resource for the board. Ron explained that there would be no increase to the budget for the salary of this position because it would come from the stipends of other positions. Stephen Foy asked if the direct supervisor of this position would be the Chairperson of the board but would work with all officer on the board. John Mainville asked what the overall plan down the road is and what the liability is. These questions were addressed by Jen Zuba.
- b. By-Law Changes. Gerry Lapierre provided those in attendance a copy of the changes to the by-laws that were approved at the 2015 annual meeting. Changes were in regards to the Auditor position now being called Reviewer.

12. New Business.

- a. Consider and approve a new budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (Oct 1, 2016 to Sept 30, 2017). Ron Lapierre reviewed the proposed changes in income and expense figures for the FY 2017 budget. There was discussion regarding third party billing. The Chairperson explained that the Actual income reflected on the budget represented at most 8 months of income rather than 12 months due to brown-out periods or times when only a Basic was on duty and the truck could not get out. Questions were asked about the line item for Reserve Capital Expense and Fire Watch Detail Income. Ron Lapierre responded to the questions. Chief Bourquin discussed the new stipend proposed for Fire Captain and the proposed sale of Engine 31. After final review of all line items, a motion was made by Beverly St. Onge to accept the budget as proposed. Sue Gartland seconded the motion. Based on a show of hands, an equal number of taxpayers approved and rejected the budget. Further discussion ensued. A motion was made by Mr. Foy to amend the Fire Watch Detail income line item. It was reduced from \$38,500 to \$34,500. A motion was made by Stephen Foy to approve the budget as amended for FY 2017 and seconded the motion. The motion was passed by majority vote.
- b. Consider and adopt a new tax levy. John Mainville propose that the tax levy be a minimum of \$379,896 and not exceed to \$384,896. Stephen Foy made a motion to accept this tax levy as

proposed. John Mainville seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.

- c. 5 Year Plan. Chief Bourquin discussed some of the minor changes that had been made and discussed plans regarding administrative space, kitchen and bathroom plumbing needs for the future.
- d. Bylaw Changes. Gerry Lapierre discussed proposed changes to the Fire District by-laws. Proposed changes were suggested to include residency requirement for all Operating Committee members and district officers. A change was also proposed regarding meeting notifications. Change was proposed to match the State requirements. A motion was made by Stephen Foy to accept the changes regarding residency but the changes to the 48 hour notice were rejected. Sue Gartland seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
- e. Sale of Fire Engine. Stephen Foy made a motion to approve the sale of Engine 31 with the contingency that all proceeds from the sale would be placed in the reserve savings account. It was suggested by John Mainville to include that the sale of the engine be advertised locally and nationally. Stephen Foy revised his motion to include this contingency. Norm Dalpe seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
- f. Union Contract Reopener. Gerry Lapierre informed the taxpayers that he and Paul Wright were on the negotiating committee for the union contract reopener and the items being discussed were health benefits and a pension. He explained that the district is required to negotiate with the union and once they finalize some type of agreement it will be brought back to the taxpayers at a special meeting for the taxpayers to decide what to do. He explained that if the district does not negotiate, the union can go right to arbitration and they will make the decision for us.
- g. Any business that can be legally addressed.

13. **Meeting Adjournment** – Hearing no additional questions or comments, Gerry Lapierre made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Norm Dalpe and the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Christine A. Chretien
District Clerk